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extent of the parole and probation systems, the extent of the application of work tests for the recipients of public relief as set forth in Section 3493, the extent of the use of county and city prisoners on street, road or other public work, and the extent that public officials may by carrying on other permitted activities by convicted persons; also to study the means whereby greater activities in these lines may be obtained; and also to encourage and urge their fullest possible use.

Proposed Legislation

For legislative action we recommend the following:

1. Strengthening of Section 13408 and 13409 relating to tramps and vagrants.
2. Passage of law relating to idleness and vagrancy during war, similar to act passed in West Virginia, May 19, 1917. (See this number, p. 0000.)
3. The Governor is requested to appoint a special advisory commission, similar to the Prison Commission appointed in 1913, or to designate some existing Board, Commission or Agency, to study the entire workhouse and misdemeanor problem and to prepare a plan for legislative action.

Appended to this report will be found the text of a number of the sections of the General Code referred to in this report. There is also appended a suggested ordinance, prepared by the Attorney General, for adoption by municipal councils, in accordance with Section 3664 and 3665. (Text of law not printed.) (See this number, p. 000.)

Respectfully submitted, H. H. Shirer, Chairman; W. A. Greenlund, James L. Fieser, J. M. Hanson, D. Frank Garland. (From Ohio Bulletin of Charities and Correction, Dec., 1917.)

Suggested Ordinance Relative to Begging, Etc.—

Be it Ordained by the Council of the City of....., State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That any person who, within the corporate limits of the city of....., State of Ohio, wanders about from place to place or begs in the streets or public places or lives without labor or visible means of support, or acts in a suspicious manner and is unable to give a reasonable account of himself, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined in a sum not to exceed \$50.00 and costs of prosecution.

SEC. 2. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Passed....., 1917

..... Clerk President

West Virginia Law Relative to Idleness and Vagrancy.—

An Act to prevent idleness and vagrancy in West Virginia during the continuance of the war in which the United States is now engaged.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared to be the duty of every able-bodied male resident of this state, between the ages of sixteen and sixty years, to habitually and regularly engage in some lawful, useful and recognized business, profession, occupation or employment whereby he may produce or earn sufficient to support himself and those legally dependent upon him.

SEC. 2. From the time this act becomes effective, and thenceforward until six months after the termination of the present war between the United States

and the Imperial German government, any able-bodied male resident of this state between the ages of sixteen and sixty, except bona fide students during school term, who shall fail or refuse to regularly and steadily engage for at least thirty-six hours per week in some lawful and recognized business, profession, occupation or employment, whereby he may contribute to the support of himself and those legally dependent upon him, shall be held to be a vagrant within the meaning and effect of this act, and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars for each offense, and as a part of such sentence and punishment such offender shall be by the trial court ordered to work not exceeding sixty days upon the public roads or streets, or upon some other public work being done by and in the county in which such person shall be convicted, or by any municipality therein. One-half of the fair value of any such labor so performed under such sentence, shall be paid by the county or municipality receiving the same toward the support of any persons legally dependent upon such vagrant, but if there shall be no such legal dependents, then payment shall be made on account of any labor performed under such judgment. Any labor so required by a judgment of conviction hereunder shall be rendered in all respects as is now provided by law in case of other prisoners in jail.

Prosecutions for vagrancy hereunder shall be instituted and conducted as other criminal prosecutions, and in no case shall the possession by the accused of money property or income sufficient to support himself and those legally dependent upon him to be a defense to any prosecution under this act. In no case shall the claim by the accused of inability to obtain work or employment be a defense to a prosecution hereunder, unless it shall be proved that the accused promptly notified the proper representative of the State Council of Defense of his inability to obtain employment and requested that work or employment be found for him, and that such employment was not furnished.

SEC. 3. All justices of the peace, mayors and police judges within the state are hereby given jurisdiction to try and punish all offenders under this act, or such prosecution as may be by indictment. Each week or portion thereof that such resident shall continue as a vagrant hereunder shall constitute a separate offense, and no appeal shall be allowed from any judgment of conviction for vagrancy, unless the accused shall give bond, with penalty and security to be fixed and approved by the court granting the appeal, conditioned not to violate this act during the pendency of such appeal. Any judgment for the performance of labor hereunder may be suspended by the court pronouncing the same, upon the execution by the person convicted of a bond, with the penalty and security approved by the court, conditioned to comply with the provisions of this act for one year from the date of such bond.

A violation of the condition of such last mentioned bond shall entitle the state to recover the amount of the penalty thereof, and in addition thereto the convicted person shall be re-arrested and required to serve the sentence formerly pronounced against him.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of this act any male person found in this state shall be deemed a resident, and in any prosecution hereunder, proof that the accused habitually loiters in idleness in streets, roads, depots, pool rooms, hotels, stores or other public place, or that he is habitually intoxicated, or is addicted to the use of narcotic drugs, or is a professional gambler, or, being

able bodied is supported in whole or in part by the labor of any woman or child, shall be prima facie evidence of vagrancy.

Sec. 5. All acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act, or any part hereof, are hereby repealed.—Passed May 19, 1917; effective June 19, 1917. (From Ohio Bulletin of Charities and Correction, Dec., 1917.)

Mother's Pensions in America.—In the midst of the greatest crises in American history, on the day in June last, when ten million citizens of the United States were registering for compulsory military service in the war, the attention of the entire nation was diverted to the search for a kidnapped baby.

The baby son of a Springfield, Missouri, banker had been carried off into the Ozark mountains and was being held for ransom. A thousand mountaineers were assembling to go out on the trail.

And yet little Lloyd Keet, the kidnapped baby, drew as much attention as the registration itself. In the news columns of the press his story shared equally with the accounts of the registration. Editorial writers devoted part of their columns to his case. It was a national sensation.

All of which merely shows how fundamentally and passionately all men believe in the sanctity of the child's right to its mother. A basic human instinct is outraged by the crime of the kidnapper. The law recognizes this and punishes that crime with the most drastic severity.

And yet the law itself has been for years guilty of kidnapping children. For no crime at all but because of the misfortune of poverty, mothers have been legally bereft of their little ones. Children have been kidnapped by the State, shut up, often practically incommunicado, in huge prison-like institutions. Not because their parents failed in love or duty. It was simply because they were poor.

But thirty American states have now redeemed themselves from this crime of violating a fundamental human instinct. They have established a Mothers' Pension system. Instead of paying an institution to care for the children of poverty-stricken parents, they now pay the mother herself to care for the children.

The phenomenal rapidity with which the Mother's Pension system spread over the country, once it had been outlined, is explained by the fact that it appeals to one of the deepest of human emotions, to the same instinct in men that made the case of the kidnapped Lloyd Keet rival in the news an event of world-wide importance.

In 1911 the first Mothers' Pension law was born. Previous to that time our American states had been saving children from poverty at home by sending them to charitable institutions.

The mothers' pension system is not merely a relief measure. It is a utilitarian system for the benefit not only of the individual directly concerned, but of society, just exactly as the public school is. In New York the law provides that the mother who receives a pension shall be told at the time that it is not a charity but a legal pension.

The result is that the degrading influence of receiving charity does not enter into the case. And the dignity and nobility of motherhood is preserved. The woman with her family about her remains a useful, honored member of society.